

AGRICULTURAL NEWS

A FEW SUGGESTIONS FOR OUR RURAL READERS.

Why Young People Drift from the Country to the City—How to Get Rid of Cockroaches—Bronze Turkeys—Things to Remember.

Making Farm Life Attractive.

The great development of the country that began almost immediately after the war of the rebellion drew a large number of farmers' sons to the cities. Many of them were attracted by the advantages offered in business and others had been unfitted for the quiet life of the country by their experience while in the army. This current still sets steadily cityward, and its results were realized in the last census, when one-third of the population of the country was found in cities of 8,000 people and over. It has been increased by the abandonment of nearly all the old-time amusements that were once in use in the country. The singing school, the apple-paring bee, the husking bee, and the other forms of innocent amusement that were in vogue twenty-five years ago have nearly all gone into disuse.

When the barrenness, the isolation and the hard work of farm life are taken into account, and the attractions which city life offers to the young, the past drift away from the country is easily explained. But it is likely that this force is being spent, and that another census will see a smaller percentage of the population of the country than now living in the cities. The overcrowding, the lack of work and the hardship that must be endured by the poor in cities are preaching their sermons and turning the attention of many to the country. The progress of science and invention are also certain to take much of the isolation from life in the country. The crusade for good roads, which promises in the near future to substitute well-built highways for the muddy, rutty country roads of to-day is one means. The constant cheapening of electricity, which must soon girdle the country highways with roads, is another means; and the bicycle, which every farmer's boy and girl ought to know how to ride, is a third means of placing the farm in cheap, quick, and easy communication with other farms, and with the town and city also.

Every means that will tend to spread the people over the country and restore farm life to its former dignity and contentedness ought to be encouraged. The American people would be happier and more healthful, their lives would be purer and more useful, if the old equilibrium between the city and the country were brought back again. The increasing disposition of well-to-do people to go to the country early and stay late will act as an incentive to draw other people there by adding to the social advantages. The greater security and comfort of life on the farm over city life no one can dispute, and if to these features the means for more healthful amusement and more frequent mingling with men can be added, the health, wealth, and happiness of the Nation will be increased many fold.—Philadelphia Press.

Bronze Turkeys.

The bronze turkeys usually are the best for raising, as they can be made to produce very tender, sweet meat, while their carcasses when properly fattened are very heavy. In fact, they surpass all other breeds, both in weight and hardiness. The young turkeys before this time should be good-sized birds, and those that have gathered up a living on the farm and in the fields and woods during the summer are in excellent condition for the fattening for the holidays. As a rule, turkeys can find their living in the woods and fields better than chickens, but they should not be kept without grain feed too long. If they have been accustomed to the fat, juicy worms of summer they are very ready to make a change of diet. The fattening period for market should cover several weeks. It is better to give them all they will eat for four weeks than for two weeks. Give them good food only, for everything that they eat now goes to make meat, and if such things as onions, bitter weeds, and decayed fruits and vegetables are given to them their meat will have a bad odor and flavor. The food during the fattening period really has much to do in giving the turkeys fine, white, well flavored meat. Too much exercise is also bad for them, and they should be shut up most of the time. Corn is the great fattening food, and if one is situated that chestnuts are easily obtained it is well to feed them on these, too. They certainly flavor the meat a little, and the turkeys are very fond of them. Plenty of pure water and milk help the turkeys at this time. Sweet, rich milk is good for them, and they are very fond of it.—Independent.

Cockroaches.

I have been successful on several occasions in ridding my house of these disgusting creatures, says a correspondent in an exchange, and can sympathize with housekeepers who are afflicted with their presence. They abound mostly in the kitchen, in the neighborhood of the sink and range. I would, in the first place, putty or plug up with wood all cracks and holes that furnish harboring places. In the second place I would, the last thing in the evening before retiring, by means of a bellows fitted for the purpose, blow insect powder freely over the floor and so as to make a cloud in the air. This can be done every other night at first, then less frequently; this use of the powder will also destroy all the flies.

STATE NEWS.

The Midland college at Atchison has been closed on account of the prevalence of scarlet fever among the students.

From Abilene: The defunct First National bank has paid 85 per cent. to creditors. The building is yet to be sold and may bring another 3 or 4 per cent. later on.

At Emporia Norman Evans, a fifteen-year-old boy, while in the company of several others who were jumping on and off cars being moved by a switch engine on the Santa Fe road, fell under the cars and had both legs crushed to a pulp just below the knees and his right arm broken.

McLouth letter: The old soldiers and their families of this vicinity held a glorious camp fire in this city, which was largely attended. The exercises opened with a basket dinner in the G. A. R. hall, to which the old boys paid ample justice, after which all repaired to the United Brethren church, where the literary part of the programme was carried out, consisting of music and speaking.

From Fredonia: Oscar Vancamp, charged with stealing cattle and selling to butchers here, who was arrested at Harrisonville, Mo., was brought here and placed in jail, with two others of the supposed same gang recently arrested. This makes the seventh man very recently jailed, including the three charged with holding up the Frisco and Santa Fe agents at Severy and Howard, Kan.

Larned special: The cases of the state against the Larned state and Pawnee county banks of this city, came up in the district court and were continued on an agreement between the officers of the bank and the depositors to pay fifty cents on the dollar. The charges were for receiving deposits when the banks were insolvent. When the 50 per cent. settlement is made the cases are to be dismissed.

Garden City Imprint: George Eichhorn mortgaged his claim some years ago to a loan company and about a year ago made the company a deed to it. After looking the Cherokee strip over with a view to changing his location, he came to the conclusion that he could find no place better than Finney county. A few days ago he bought his old homestead back from the loan company and will continue his residence here.

From Williamsburg: This city was thrown into a state of great excitement when Thomas W. Hagan, postmaster recently appointed, shot at his wife with a revolver, just grazing her left cheek and filling one side of her face with burnt powder, which was extracted by Dr. James. For some time past Hagan has been on a spree and his wife had left him. She had been staying at her mother's, Mrs. Combs, where the shooting occurred. Hagan will be arrested.

Topeka Capital: Architect J. G. Holland says there is going to be a large number of bids presented for the building of the Shawnee county court house from present indications. It is going to be a handsome structure that will attract considerable attention in this capital city and there are many contractors who would like to have the name of its builders. Applications are coming in from all parts of the state from prospective builders asking for complete blue print copies of the plans.

Cawker City special: A discovery of gold was made near this city some time ago but was kept quiet until an assay could be made. The assayer reports "1,685 90-100 ounces of gold per ton, and 481 5-10 ounces of silver per ton." The find was made in digging a well on a farm four miles southwest of this city. At a depth of fourteen feet rock was encountered; underneath this was a foot of gravel and then another rock. The color is in the gravel. The assayer (Wilson, of Pueblo) says: "If you have much gravel like this sample you have certainly struck it rich." Other portions of the farm are now being prospected.

From Chetopa: A man named James Simmons was stopping with William Sharp, who lives on the territory line, nine or ten miles southwest of Chetopa. He had been writing all day and in the evening would eat no supper. Shortly after dark he called for a drink of water but death had struck him before he could drink and he fell over on the floor dead. He was a man about thirty or thirty-five years old. No one knows anything about his relatives. He has a team and some money. It is supposed that he had taken poison. He said the day he died the officers were after him and had him in a tight place because of some family trouble.

From Pittsburg: A bitter feeling still exists as the outcome of the strike, and it frequently crops out. A man named Jacobs and his son, 14 years old, worked during the agitation last summer and were given the usual appellation of "blacklegs." The father and son are now working and the former being taken sick, the latter went to his work alone. En route he was set upon by two of the ex-strikers, both grown men, who took their revenge upon the defenseless boy, beating and kicking him in a terrible manner and then fled. The matter was reported to the company of officers, who are so indignant at the cowardly, unprovoked assault that they have taken steps to have the assailants punished to the full extent of the law.

From St. Francis: Notwithstanding this season has been somewhat off in the crop line, yet Cheyenne county has raised, and just marketed eighty car loads of broom corn at the very low price of \$30 as the maximum and some as low as \$20 per ton. Seventeen flatboats heavily laden with broom corn from Tuttle's ranch in Colorado have just landed here coming down the Republican river and will be transported from here to Chicago via B. & M. R. R. This is a great county for broom corn.

Arrangements for a big celebration on the opening of the new bridge across the Missouri at Leavenworth on January 2 are being made.

At the Ottawa university oratorical contest, to select a representative to the state contest at Topeka, there were four contestants. H. I. Banta, a lower class man, was declared victor. He is a good speaker and will fairly represent his school.

From Fredonia: The remains of the 8-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Moss, who died at Polo, Mo., while on a visit, were brought home and a largely attended funeral was held. Besides the deep mourning of the parents at the loss of their only child is that of Master Shinn, of the same age, a near neighbor and ever constant playmate, who, upon learning of his so much attached one's death, at once gave away, became prostrated and is still in a critical condition.

Topeka Capital: Sergeant Jennings has been to Coolidge, Hamilton county, where he established a station of his bureau. There are now about ninety mineralogical stations in Kansas and about 200 stations during the summer to send in crop reports. The men in charge of these stations receive their pay in publications of the national bureau and agricultural reports of the state. Mr. Jennings believes it is a question of a short time before they become regular pay offices of the government.

When J. W. Ady was United States attorney he began a suit against the Transmissouri Freight association in the United States court under the anti-trust law. Judge Riner decided that the association was not a trust. This position was sustained by the United States court of appeals. United States District Attorney Perry, Mr. Ady's successor, has also interested himself in the case. He is not satisfied with the decision and announces that he will carry the case to the supreme court of the United States.

STOCK AND FARM.

Garden City Imprint: Farmers about Plymouth have in from 20 to 600 acres of wheat, and with the present outlook there is no reason now to think that there will be other than a bountiful harvest next year, one that will win back any fame which our sunny land may have lost by the failure of the present year.

Rossville Times: A few days ago John Frush's friends and neighbors entered his field in full force and husked all his corn. The field was crowded with teams and willing workers and the husking bee was soon brought to a successful termination. This bee was one of Practical Christianity's embodiments, and it beats, by large odds, those worthy manifestations that are too ethereal to be harnessed and utilized.

Tonganoxie Mirror: Edmund Cheeseman, on his farm four miles south, is building an apparatus to irrigate five acres of ground next season. The water will be pumped from the creek and forced through pipes to his garden. No tank is to be used. Celery and onions will be grown on the irrigated ground. Mr. Cheeseman had the finest onions on the Lawrence market this year, and with his celery, of which he has an acre, no fault could be found.

Garden City Imprint: While Humphrey Colyer of Essex, was driving in the cattle rather late in the evening, a coyote came up to his dog for a fight. After they had fought for a few seconds the dog "threw up the sponge" and went to his master for protection. The coyote began to bark, which brought quite a number to the rescue. In a short time Humphrey was surrounded with them. The horses being a short distance away he caught one and went home.

KANSAS RAILROADS.

The Rock Island has 3,910 stockholders.

The Rock Island paid last year for fuel alone \$1,455,736.88.

The Rock Island spent last year in repairs of all kinds \$3,267,247.03.

The Santa Fe and Union Pacific are both preparing to put in switches to the south and north abutments of the Topeka dam.

The case of C. E. Lathrop vs. the Burlington & Missouri River railroad was decided by the board of railroad commissioners in favor of the plaintiff. This was a case in which it was charged that the railroad charged \$3 each for setting cars upon the transfer track at Atchison. It was established in the evidence that there is an established rule among railroads that charges are payable to the road receiving the freight and in no case is a switching charge allowed to the road delivering the freight to another line. It was also proven that the Rock Island and Missouri Pacific transfer all cars that come over their lines to Atchison free of charge, and that the Burlington transfers cars free to several of the large wholesale houses of Atchison. Furthermore, this is the only instance ever known of this railroad charging a shipper for the freight transferred to another road. The board decided that the charges complained of were unjust and an illegal discrimination against Mr. Lathrop and they were ordered discontinued immediately.

The total cost of construction and equipment of the Rock Island to June 30 last was \$103,414,848.46.

The Missouri, Kansas & Texas in its report to the railroad commissioners gives Parsons as the address of the general office.

The Santa Fe and the Missouri Pacific have announced a one-fare rate to the G. A. R. encampment at Newton, beginning February 21, next. This rate will probably be adopted by all the other lines. The matter will be adjusted at the Denver meeting.

Trying to Stand In.

Hays City Sentinel.

We can hardly make the man out. Is he a wicked, unscrupulous, revolutionary enemy of law and decency, or is he a weak, timid sentimentalist who imagines he has a mission in life and is stupidly blundering around in search of it? Is he trying to "stand in" with the criminal class, or has he gushingly given away to maudlin sentiment—that's the question. Either way the result is the same. In effect the proclamation invites all the unemployed scoundrelism in seven states to rendezvous in Kansas. It promises immunity to all the bums, beggars and sneak thieves that infest the farmer and householder. It affords no relief to good men for the reason that it is not likely that in all Kansas a good man in search of work was ever arrested and confined in the bull pen or put to work upon the rock pile. We never have heard of a case. But to us the most serious phase of this affair is the governor's audacious attempt to annul state laws and city ordinances and to dictate to the judiciary. He has no more right to suspend the laws against vagrancy than he has to suspend the laws against murder, and his proclamation simply contains the essence of anarchy without its courage.

Let Him Resign.

Holton Recorder.

If Mr. Cleveland is going to maintain the high moral standard of right (?) which he claims actuated him in attempting to tear down a respectable republican government to reinstate a corrupt and licentious monarchy, he ought to resign his office at once. It is a notorious fact that he was elected to his present position by repeaters in New York, and by suppressing the republican vote in several southern states. If all he charges in regard to how the provisional government came into power in Hawaii is true, the methods were not half as disgraceful as those used to elect Grover Cleveland. Take our own state of Kansas. The disgrace and ignominy we are now undergoing is the direct result of the corrupt trade the democratic national committee made with the populists in this state, whereby the democrats were to vote for Weaver and the populist state ticket in the interests of Cleveland and to get John Martin, a democrat, into the United States senate.

Judge Gresham's Decisions.

New York Tribune.

At the last term of the United States supreme court four appeals from the decisions of the Seventh judicial circuit court, Judge Walter Q. Gresham presiding, ended in a reversal of the judgment of the lower court. These four cases were all from Gresham's last term. At the present term only one case was presented to the supreme court on appeal from the court over which Judge Gresham presided, and this, too, has been reversed. A clean record, as it were. It seems that Secretary Gresham is in a fair way to eclipse the record made by Judge Gresham. If we are not greatly mistaken the next record will read: Decision of Secretary Gresham in the case of the Provisional Government of Hawaii vs. ex-Queen Liliuokalani—reversed by the universal judgment of the American people.

Posting Up the Items.

Topeka Capital.

During a recent call at this office W. H. Moore, of St. Louis, Mo., who represents a large company interested in the wool industries of western states, said that Mr. G. L. Klein, of Vienna, Austria, has made all the preliminary arrangements for locating a large colony of Germans in the Pecos valley, New Mexico. When asked by Mr. Moore why he did not stop in Kansas or Colorado, he replied that there was too much political trouble in these states, and that he did not consider them safe at this time for large enterprises. What populism has and will cost this state can never be computed. In loss of capital, emigration, business and values it is simply enormous.

It is Ever So.

Inter Ocean.

Uncle Sam has some of the finest mica mines in the world, but congress has determined to close up every one of them unless miners can be induced to work for the pauper wages of European miners. When American mines are abandoned, and Europe gets the swing of the trade, up will go the price of mica. That will be the way in other things. When the American sheep are slaughtered, the benevolent Australian and South American will not hesitate to take advantage of the situation.

What the Pops Want.

Kansas City, Kas., Gazette.

Let us see. There is the Santa Fe, the Rock Island, the Missouri Pacific, the M. & K. T., running south from Kansas to the Gulf, and we believe there is a line from Denver. Each one of these lines is probably not used over an hour in each day. For hundreds of miles the rails are probably rusty. And yet the fool pops want the states to build another line in that direction.

It Bad Shape.

Oswatimie Globe.

Things at the asylum are still in bad shape. Many of the newly appointed officers are as ignorant of what is required of them or how to do it as a hog driver is supposed to know of navigation. They appear to be possessed of a dense incapacity to learn by practical experience. It's an awful thing for a person to become insane in Kansas these days!

It sounds humiliatingly silly for the president to give as a reason for failure to restore Grover Lill that she would not declare a general amnesty.

A VOYAGE OF DEATH.

Terrible Trip of a Great Lakes Vessel in 1850.

The terrible voyage lately of the Italian ship Iemo between Genoa and Rio de Janeiro with its cholera stricken passengers brings to mind the trip of the Allegheny between Buffalo and Milwaukee in the spring of 1850. Her passenger list numbered forty cabin and 150 steerage passengers, most of the latter being Swedish immigrants. Suddenly a terrible disease broke out among the Swedes which proved fatal in almost every case. The victim's cheeks became sunken, his eyes glassy and within twenty-four hours death followed, being accompanied with frightful suffering.

Before the Allegheny arrived at Manitou the dead were buried in one large trench. After leaving this place there was no other port where the Allegheny could touch before arriving at Milwaukee and she left the island literally a floating charnel house. Scarcely an hour passed that an immigrant did not fall a victim to the terrible scourge. The victims were weighted and cast overboard as soon as dead, such a thing as shrouding or giving funeral services being an impossibility.

It seemed impossible to find any remedy for the plague and drugs were tried in vain. At last a clerk named Gardiner discovered a cask of rum in the hold and this proved a palliative of the disease, several who were dazed with it recovering. When the Allegheny at length reached Milwaukee eighty-five of the 150 immigrants had perished and twelve were still sick with the disease. With much difficulty these twelve were taken ashore into an old storehouse which was turned into a hospital and there the terrible disease was gotten in hand without more deaths.

The young clerk Gardiner, whose prescription of rum undoubtedly saved the lives of several, is now an honored and wealthy citizen of Cleveland of which city he has several times been Mayor.

Snake Charming.

A professional snake handler remarked the other day that snake charming had become a common thing nowadays, and the danger about the work is just sufficient to attract some people. There is always danger unless the poisonous fangs are extracted. It is almost impossible to charm, or rather drug, some species of snakes so that they can always be depended upon. They are a treacherous set, and more so when they have the poisonous fangs in their mouths.

They know at once when these fangs have been extracted. They seem to lose their pride and ferocity, and they will try to sneak away rather than to offer defiance. I have known the fiercest diamond back ever brought from Florida cool down as tame as a lamb when its poisonous fang was taken out. Most of the snakes handled by charmers on the stage are harmless so far as poisoning any one is concerned. It should be a crime, too, to let those with the fangs in be exhibited.

The secret of snake charming is simple—more simple than most people imagine. In the first place, the snake to be haddled is gorged with food so that it is drowsy. Then it is drugged so that its senses are dazed and quiet. Sometimes they are put in boxes containing ice, and the cold puts them into a semi-torpid condition. In either case the snake is very gentle, and only about half in possession of its senses. Then the snake charmer uses certain motions in handling the reptile, and by dint of dexterity and strength the snake is easily passed from hand to hand and allowed to coil its slimy length over arms, legs, and body. The exhibitor, however, must be constantly on the alert. When the snake becomes too lively it is time to replace it in the box.

The hand must always grasp it at certain places where the head can be guided and held from the body. This is the hardest thing the charmer has to learn, but it comes with practice. If handling a reptile with the poisonous fangs in one must be strong and in perfect health. Any nervousness or timidity might cost him his life. The grasp and movements must be precise and accurate. There is no room for hesitancy or uncertainty, and the strain on one's system during the performance is great. The charmer is really toying with death—and death in its most horrible form.

"Old Lady of Threadneedle Street."

Threadneedle street really exists; it is a street in London, running from Cornhill to Prince's street, and one side of it is taken up with the building of the Bank of England, which is the "Old Lady of Threadneedle Street." Why the bank is called so does not seem to be settled. Just as Gideon Welles, Lincoln's Secretary of the Navy, was called an old woman, so probably some governor of the bank was called an old woman, and then the bank itself was called so. Probably because the bank is conservative and slow, as old ladies are popularly supposed to be, the name seemed to fit it naturally.

Multiple Photography.

A simple method of photographing a person in five different attitudes all at once has been invented by a New Jersey photographer, by means of which the same picture gives five different views of the sitter. This is accomplished by using as a background two plane mirrors, forming between them an angle of forty-five degrees, and placing the person at the junction. The usefulness of such pictures will not be confined to ordinary life, as they will be most valuable in criminology and anthropology.